

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 9, with the following:

--In one aspect, the present invention provides for oligonucleotide primers that comprise in the following order from 5' to 3': a phage-encoded RNA polymerase recognition sequence, a spacer sequence comprising a sequence of from 12 to 20 nucleotides that consists of one nucleotide type or two different nucleotide types, and a target complementary sequence which can bind a segment of a target nucleic acid. In certain embodiments, the spacer sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence having the formula $(XY)_n$, wherein n is from 6 to 10, wherein X and Y are independently selected from the group consisting of an adenine nucleotide, a guanine nucleotide, a cytosine nucleotide, and a thymidine nucleotide, wherein X and Y are not the same (SEQ ID NO:9). In certain preferred embodiments, X is an adenine nucleotide and Y is a guanine nucleotide (SEQ ID NO:29). In other embodiments, the spacer sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence having the formula $(X)_n$, wherein n is from 12 to 20, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of an adenine nucleotide, a guanine nucleotide, a cytosine nucleotide, and a thymidine nucleotide (SEQ ID NO:30).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 26, with the following:

--Typically, these methods further involve repetitively carrying out steps i to vii. For example, steps i to vii can be carried out one, two, etc. When the first or second spacer comprises a nucleotide sequence having the formula $(XY)_n$ (SEQ ID NO:9), as described above, then the rNTPs represented in the spacer sequences should be present in the reaction mixture. For example if a spacer sequence is $(AG)_{12-20}$ (SEQ ID NO:5) then rATP and rGTP should be present in the reaction mixture. Similarly, the first or said second spacer sequence can comprise a nucleotide sequence having the formula

(X)₁₂₋₂₀ (SEQ ID NO:30), where X is a dNTP. Then, the corresponding rNTP should be present in the reaction mixture.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 27, with the following:

--Figure 2 depicts an embodiment of the first half of the amplification cycle from primer binding to the antisense transcription product through production of sense transcription product. The entry point into the amplification cycle from the intermediate duplex is through the sense transcription product. Spacer sequences = SEQ ID NOS:31 and 32.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 31, with the following:

--Figure 3 depicts an embodiment of the second half of the amplification cycle from primer binding to the sense transcription product through production of antisense transcription product. The amplification cycle consists of alternating between production of sense transcription products and antisense transcription products. Spacer sequences = SEQ ID NOS:31 and 32.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 5, with the following:

--Essentially, the spacer sequence can be composed of any arrangement of up to two different nucleotide types. Thus, the spacer sequence can be composed of just one nucleotide, e.g., adenine, thymidine, guanosine, or cytosine. Ergo, in some embodiments, the spacer sequence is a homopolymer with the formula (X)_n, where n is from 12 to 20, and where X is selected from the group consisting of an adenine nucleotide, a guanine nucleotide, a cytosine nucleotide, and a thymidine nucleotide (SEQ ID NO:30). Examples of these spacer sequence embodiments include, without limitation, (A)₁₂₋₂₀ (SEQ ID NO: 5), (T)₁₂₋₂₀ (SEQ ID NO: 6), (C)₁₂₋₂₀ (SEQ ID NO: 7), and (G)₁₂₋₂₀

(SEQ ID NO: 8). In other embodiments, the spacer sequence is a combination of two different types of nucleotides, e.g., A and T, A and G, A and C, T and G, T and C, and G and C. For example, in certain embodiments, the spacer sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence having the formula (XY)_n, where n is preferably from 6 to 10 (SEQ ID NO:9). The nucleotides X and Y for these spacer sequence embodiments are independently selected from the group consisting of an adenine nucleotide, a guanine nucleotide, a cytosine nucleotide, and a thymidine nucleotide, and X and Y are not the same. In preferred embodiments, X is an adenine nucleotide and Y is a guanine nucleotide (SEQ ID NO:29).--

Please replace the paragraph (Table 2.)beginning at page 41, line 20, with the following:

--Table 2. Spacer Variant in Amp011

| Primer | Spacer Structure | Sequence | SEQ ID NO: |
|----------|------------------|----------------------|------------|
| AMP011 | Standard | GGGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGA | 27 |
| AMP011Sc | Modified | GGGAGAAGGAGAAAAAGA | 28 |
| | Difference | * * * * * | |

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Please cancel the present informal "SEQUENCE LISTING", pages 54-56, and insert therefor the accompanying paper copy of the Sequence Listing, page numbers 1 to 9, at the end of the application.